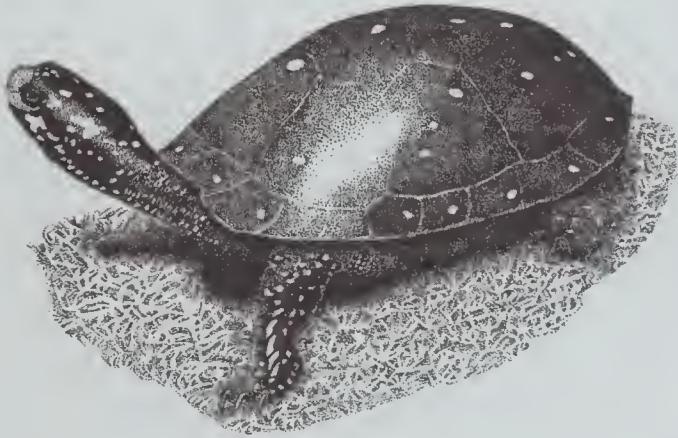


TRAIL & LANDSCAPE



*A Publication Concerned With
Natural History and Conservation*

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

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The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

— Founded 1879 —

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Objectives of the Club: To promote the appreciation, preservation and conservation of Canada's natural heritage; to encourage investigation and publish the results of research in all fields of natural history and to diffuse the information on these fields as widely as possible; to support and co-operate with organizations engaged in preserving, maintaining or restoring environments of high quality for living things.

Club Publications: THE CANADIAN FIELD-NATURALIST, a quarterly devoted to reporting research in all fields of natural history relevant to Canada, and TRAIL & LANDSCAPE, a quarterly providing articles on the natural history of the Ottawa Valley and on Club activities.

Field Trips, Lectures and other natural history activities are arranged for local members; see "Coming Events" in this issue.

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TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

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Welcome New Members

Ottawa Area

Flo. L. Alexander
François E.D. Bregha
Linda Burr & Family
Kathleen E. Conlan
Stephanie L. Douma
Martha & Matthew Farkas
Dorothy M. Forrester
Kate Harrigan & Family
Jennifer Howell
Cynthia Hubbertz & Family
Stephanie J. Irwin & Family
Shannon Leblond/Rebecca Lam
Ann Martin & Family
Shamus McCoy
Andrew Mott
Elizabeth Lee O'Driscoll
Ruth Oswald
Lee Roy & Family
Sean E. Steller
Robyn Vezina
Marnie Wellar & Family
Adamo Young

Henry Steger
Chair, Membership Committee
May 2011

Summer 2011—Celebrating Who We Are

One of the delightful traditions in the OFNC is the Soirée; the annual wine and cheese evening every April. It is a time for Club members to come together in a social setting and celebrate who we are and what we value.

Regular Soirée attendees have their own favourite aspects of the evenings. Many look forward to the photo contest. Others anticipate the displays of the Macoun young people. For some it is the chance to mingle with a glass of wine. But for all, a major part of the evening is the awards.

You have seen the request for nominations for awards every January in *T&L*. Take a close look at what each award is designed to recognize. Collectively they reflect what we, as a group, consider important and worth acknowledging. It is a bit like the pointed finger where one finger points forward but four fingers are facing back. The awards we choose to give, and the reasons for giving them, probably say more about us, as a collective society, than about the recipients.

While some awards are limited to Club members, many are not. This reflects the far-reaching perspective of the OFNC. We see ourselves as fostering natural history in many ways, far beyond the scope of our local club. *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* also demonstrates this broad perspective in its choice of articles and authors.

Our most prestigious award is bestowing an Honourary Membership. A limit of 25 Honourary Members at any time ensures they are not given lightly. Becoming an honorary member requires an extensive contribution over many years to natural history or the successful operation of the Club. The OFNC has been around for a long time and likes to recognize those who also take a long-term perspective. Those who are a 'Johnny-come-lately' are not in the running.



What else do the awards tell us about ourselves? We appreciate people who work hard to keep the Club operating. All those elves behind the scenes. Things don't happen on their own—it takes a driver and others looking after details. We also recognize the two key aspects of natural history—research and education. Together they have more value than independently.

Our wonderful website has a description of all the awards—just click on Awards in the top blue box. To see who has received an award click on “And the winners are . . .” This will be updated soon to include the recent recipients. I am sure you know or have heard of many of them, particularly the ones in the last few years. Personally I find it a humbling experience.

Ann MacKenzie
annmackenzie@rogers.com

Club Phone

Do you like to help people? Talk on the phone? Home part of most days? If so maybe you could take over the club phone.

After over 10 years of answering questions and redirecting calls, Marilyn Ward is stepping down. There is a messaging system and calls could be forwarded to someone else for short periods if you are away on vacation. If you think you might be able to assume this responsibility then contact Ann MacKenzie at *annmackenzie@rogers.com* or by phone at 613-736-7051.

If you want to know about what the job entails you may call the Club line (613-722-3053) and ask Marilyn.

Conservation Matters

Summer, 2011

*Ken Young*¹

NCC Greenbelt Master Plan Review

The National Capital Commission is continuing its review of the Master Plan that guides the management of the Greenbelt. The current Greenbelt Master Plan dates from 1996. The update will look into the future, through to 2060. Consequently, it is best regarded as a medium- to long-term planning exercise.

Greenbelt Concepts

At the end of May, and continuing into June, the NCC held a new round of public consultations. The NCC developed three “concepts” for the future Greenbelt.

The OFNC participates in the Greenbelt Master Plan review as part of a coalition of environmental and community organizations. Members of the Greenbelt Coalition were disappointed with the limited nature of the three alternatives provided. None involve more than marginal changes to the Greenbelt. Even the potential improvements are based on the hope that private companies and the City will voluntarily add property to the Greenbelt, in some undefined way. The proposals strike one as more representative of short-term possibilities rather than a vision for the next fifty years.

What would a more ambitious concept involve? We think the goal should be to add significant new natural spaces to the existing Greenbelt, such as the general area of the Carp Hills/South March Highlands/Constance Bay. Currently, the City of Ottawa owns important properties in the Carp Hills, as well as the neighbouring Constance Bay Sandhills. There is an opportunity here, while the area is still outside the urban zone and property values are low, to acquire additional land that would protect important, biodiverse habitats. There are various means to do this, that could involve both the NCC and the City of Ottawa.

¹ Chairperson, Conservation Committee

Transportation through the Greenbelt

Back to the existing Greenbelt, the NCC and the City have agreed to conduct a "Joint Study to Assess Cumulative Effects of Transportation Infrastructure on the National Capital Greenbelt." The City has a long list of roads through the Greenbelt that it wants to widen, or add from scratch. The NCC has agreed to consider allowing that to be done.

In the past, such proposals have succeeded. The result is that the Greenbelt is broken up into many relatively small islands. Animals and birds become roadkill, and invasive species are provided easy access along new roadcuts.

However, in spite of the damage done by such road works, they are hard to combat. There is a vicious circle in which residential development is approved in areas with poor transportation links; local employment opportunities are not created; existing routes downtown are overloaded during rush hours; new roads are built through the Greenbelt. Then, the new roads are used to justify additional residential development, even farther out. The cycle repeats.

For example, Stony Swamp is one of the threatened areas, with a widening of Richmond Road and/or a new road (the Hope Side Road extension) across its southern edge, in the cards.

What do you think? These are important planning issues that will affect your, and your children's, future quality of life in Ottawa. You can contact the Club many ways, including mail, email and Facebook.

References:

The NCC's latest Greenbelt proposals can be seen at:

http://canadascapital.gc.ca/bins/ncc_web_content_page.asp?cid=16300-20446-113585-113594-137274&lang=1.

A newspaper article about the joint transportation study is at:

<http://www.emckanata.ca/20110414/news/City+of+Ottawa+and+NCC+joint+transportation+infrastructure+study+set+to+begin>.

Share your views:

Email: ofnc@ofnc.ca

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=379992938552>

The 2011 Soirée and the Awards for 2010

K. McLachlan Hamilton

The President's piece on page 107 explains nicely some of the reasons for holding this annual event; however, I also think many people come simply because it is fun. I go because it give me an opportunity to put faces to names, to meet people I don't normally see elsewhere, and to learn something new. I was not disappointed.

I always enjoy the Macoun Field Club projects. The topics are diverse and sometimes surprising. This year there were three.

One project was about the Crested Gecko, a species native to New Caledonia. This reptile, once believed extinct, was rediscovered in 1994 after a tropical storm. Currently only three distinct populations are known, so the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna is considering making it a protected species. Its present status is listed as endangered. I had the pleasure of meeting the "Super Gecko Brothers" thanks to Dawn, Mark and Jacob.

Gabriel is known as a collector and each year he brings one of his collections. This year he shared with us his carnivorous plants. He had 16 species, many of which were pitcher plants and sundews. I was amazed at the diversity of his specimens and his breadth of knowledge about them. When asked how he acquired some of the more unusual (to me at least) ones, he told us that he bought them over the internet. I have since learned that there are over 600 species worldwide, so I guess Gabriel's collection has room to grow.

The third project was about the cold water trout of Canada. Trout are in the same family with, among others, salmon and char. They prefer living in temperatures 10-16° C, so it is no surprise that they are found throughout Canadian waters. Also they are predators, who usually consume various invertebrates and zooplankton, but will eat other fish or animals when given the chance. Nathan, Jordan and Ian were in their element talking about fish, a topic so near and dear to their hearts.

Two Macouners, Dawn, President of the Juniors, and Ian, Senior President, gave us a brief synopsis of what the groups did this past year. As usual, a lot of interesting things, both indoors and out, were experienced. They always express their gratitude

to Macoun Leader, Rob Lee and to Barbara Gaertner and Diane Kitching—I believe the kids know a good thing when they see it. The Macoun Club is one of the gems of the OFNC, that should be cherished.

I did have some time to peruse the photographs and art. There may have been fewer submissions this year, but those that were there were of the same high standard. I have a hard time choosing my favourite. In the end, Gillian's artwork and Gord's photo became the peoples' choice in 2011.

As the formal portion of the evening began, I began to wonder if this year was unique. Three honorary memberships were given—such a large number since this award is limited to 25 at any given time. The last time multiple (three or more) memberships were received was in 2000. Ron Bedford, Daniel F. Brunton and Michael Cadman became the most recent recipients.



Ron Bedford had been a member of Council and the Publications Chair for 32 years. He was responsible for the policies and production of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* and *Trail & Landscape* as well as at least four special publications. He was also key in establishing the publication policy which continues to be used (pretty much in its original form) today. Ron is known for his sound judgement, his understanding of the committee's function, keen eye and sense of humour. When receiving his award, Ron remarked that in 1956

he stumbled upon a current copy of *CFN* one day at work. He noticed that the club was based in Ottawa and decided to join. It was money well spent; where else could you have early morning bird walks with Earl Godfrey for \$3/year.

Dan Brunton's achievements are too numerous to count. Although he considers himself a botanist and a birder, he is no slouch when it comes to wolves, moles,



turtles or salamanders. He is known for his environmental assessments, biological surveys, and for providing expertise to governmental agencies and to the local media. Since joining the OFNC in 1967, he has served on, or has been chair of, several committees and was President in 1982/3. Perhaps it is because of his keen interest in natural history and his participation in so many facets of the Club for so long, that many consider him the unofficial historian of the OFNC.

The Club wanted to recognize Mike Cadman for his significant contributions to the understanding of birds, and to their distributions and habitat requirements. Anyone who participated in the either



of the breeding bird atlases would be familiar with Mike, as he was the coordinator and lead editor of both. The 2007 atlas is considered the largest and most comprehensive wildlife study in Ontario. Mike's keen interest does not end there. He was also involved in the Forest Bird Monitoring Program, the Eastern Loggerhead Shrike Recovery Team, the Marsh Monitoring Program and the Ontario Birds at Risk project.



For his extraordinary effort to bring *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* up-to-date, Francis Cook was awarded Member of the Year. When the Club decided to put the *CFN* online at the beginning of Volume 125, Francis decided it was a good time to retire as Editor. However, he wanted to complete all issues to the end of 2010 before stepping down. This meant that seven issues would have to be produced in 10 months—a production level never attempted in the journal's 130-year history. When accepting the award, Francis thanked all the people who helped him over the years. He especially wanted to thank Ron, who independently supported the journal, and to his wife Joyce for her support through the process.

Since its inception in 1967, the MacSkimming Outdoor Education Centre has been providing natural history and outdoor experiences to thousands of students annually.

The centre's property is an excellent venue since it contains forests, fields and wetlands where participants can learn about weather, taxonomy, botany, limnology, and soil science. Its primary focus is to increase the knowledge about nature and natural processes, to increase environmental literacy and to teach people how to become comfortable enough to enjoy the surrounding environment. It is for these reasons that the MacSkimming Outdoor Education Center received the Mary Stuart Education Award for 2010.



The George McGee Service Award was presented to Barbara Gaertner and Diane





Kitching for their long standing dedication to the Macoun Field Club. Both have shared responsibilities in assisting Rob Lee in the operation of this unique group. They attend most of the indoor meetings and almost all of the field trips. They are the main contact for new members, and have represented the Macoun Club at public venues and at council meetings. Individually, Barbara proofreads the Macoun web page, takes the field notes at the Study Area and participates in the camping trips, while Diane produces the monthly newsletter (when a member is unable) and is responsible for ensuring the camping trips are glitch free.

Monty Brigham was given the Anne Hanes Natural History Award to acknowledge his contribution to our knowledge of bird, mammal and amphibian vocalizations. Monty is known for his recordings of over 300 bird species, as well as his other audio collections, *Pelee Spring*, *Algonquin Park* and *Songs of the Season*. Many of his recordings are available online.

The 2010 Conservation Award (non-member) went to four organizations involved with the Limerick Forest: The Limerick Forest Advisory Committee, Friends of Limerick Forest, Grenville Land Stewardship Council and the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville. This 5782 hectare forest, just south of Ottawa, contains provincially significant wetlands where several species at risk are found. It is deemed a community forest that serves a variety of interests. Within the forest, one can find picnic sites, trails and a forest headquarters. The goal of the organizations was to make the Limerick Forest an ecologically sustainable region which is open and accessible for all to enjoy.

An award that I did not know existed was presented to a former member this year. The President's prize, as the name suggests, is given at the sole discretion of the President "to a member for [his/her] unusual support of



the Club and its aims." It is not given out often, in fact, the last time it was awarded was in 1995. This year Ann wanted to recognise Janet Gehr.

Janet joined the OFNC because of her keen interest in natural history. Her club involvement changed dramatically when she became the official OFNC auditor in 1990. Apparently, it could be considered a conflict of interest just by being a member of the Club, so she decided it was in her best interest (and that of the OFNC) to end her membership.

For 20 years Janet continued to be responsible for ensuring the finances were in order until this year when she decided to step down (primarily because of the changes in the tax regulations). Ann, who was chair of Finance for several years, fully appreciated all of Janet's contributions to the Club and thought she was a worthy recipient of this special award. I think many members would agree.

The evening ended on a different note. Instead of an auction, we were presented with a series of challenges to test our natural history knowledge. It began with a auditory test to see if we could identify various animal calls (fittingly, all the recordings were Monty's). Then we had a sort of poetry recital and a "can you tell me what this is" session where someone held up an item for us to identify. Some were difficult, but all were very entertaining. For those who missed the event, here is one of the limericks of the evening:

My beak's not disgusting at all,
it helps me break seeds in the fall.
The name suggests pine,
but crabapple is fine.
I'll come south for winter with y'all.

The complete citations will be found in an upcoming issue of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*. Dan Brunton supplied all the photographs used in this article.

Rap Poem

Murray Citron

Walking east along Ridge Road,
The noonday sun is on the right.
Bright clouds echo in a deep blue sky
Snow that is shadowed and blue and white.

Four solemn barnyard horses stand
Warm in their blankets and watch and stare.
In summer they'll need flynets for their eyes—
Now their long lashes keep out the glare.

Turn back and the sun is on the left.
The way will be harder now to pace,
With the sky still blue and the snow still bright,
Walking west with the wind in my face.

Poems about nature are poems about us.
Where is this heading? Think pun, think cliché.
Horses with blankets and I with rhymes
Have wrapped ourselves in a gorgeous day.

The 50th Annual Ottawa Regional Science Fair—OFNC Awards

Jeff Skevington¹ and Carolyn Callaghan²

This year, the Ottawa Regional Science Fair was held on April 2 at Carleton University. Students in grades 7-12 submitted about 200 projects to the Fair this year. This is always a fabulous showcase of projects and ideas by our next generation of scientists.

Every year the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club presents three awards to groups that present excellent projects related to natural history or to the ideals of the Club. If you know any students in this age group, please encourage them to conduct natural history research projects for future science fairs. If you need help with ideas for projects, we will be happy to assist.

The following students each won an award of \$100 and an OFNC membership. They each provided the following summary of their projects.



¹ jeffrey.skevington@agr.gc.ca, ² naturechelsea@gmail.com.

Shamus McCoy: The diversity of invertebrates of the Billings shale throughout the Ordovician

I conducted this experiment to study the variations of diversity and abundance of fossil invertebrates through the different layers of the Billings formation. I discovered that the largest diversity, and the area with the densest population of fossils were the lower layers. This could be due to a couple of factors: the Ordovician extinction event, or a significant change in oxygen levels. One thing is for certain: most of the species were more scarce towards the upper layers. This project could benefit anyone who wishes to collect in the same outcrop. They could examine my data and then pinpoint locations where a certain species is most common. In all, I intend to continue the study, and broaden it a little bit by looking at possible changes in oxygen levels, which may have changed the paleo-environment itself.

Robyn Vezina: The Magnetic Field of Life

Our earth is in constant change, and so is its magnetic field. In Arkansas, approximately 3,000 birds fell from the sky and nobody seems to understand why. Through hypothesis and observation it was concluded that the flux and change in the magnetic field has an effect on life on earth. The sun has an influence on our magnetic field and we see the proof of this through the aurora borealis. Each day, Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO) images were compared and analyzed for solar activity such as solar flares and sunspots. The sun is almost at its peak for solar activity, as 2012 is the next solar maximum. To observe how a magnetic field affects an organism, two colonies of worker harvester ants were used. One was used as a control while the other was manipulated. The latter group of ants often aligned along the magnet used to simulate a magnetic field. This suggests that as our magnetic field begins to change so will the behavior of organisms. Migration patterns are likely to change, along with the ecosystems.

Adamo Young: Alien vs. Pest: Determining the effectiveness of the parasitic wasp *D. insulare* as a biocontrol for the Diamondback moth

The purpose of my science fair project this year was to determine the effectiveness of the parasitic wasp *Diadegma insulare* as a biological control agent for the diamondback moth *Plutella xylostella*. The diamondback moth is a pest that, in its larval stage, attacks plants in the genus *Brassica*, such as cabbage and broccoli. It is responsible for \$1 billion in crop damage each year. *Diadegma insulare* is a parasitoid (a parasite that kills its host) that attacks diamondback larvae by implanting its egg via an ovipositor (a lancing mechanism). The egg develops inside the larva and consumes its host during pupation.

I tested three attributes of diamondback larvae that were parasitized compared them to larvae that weren't: mortality rate, growth rate, and food consumption. To do this,

I exposed half the test subjects to female parasitic wasps and watched as each larva was lanced. I used the other half as controls. I monitored larval growth and food consumption, and recorded any deaths. At the end of the larval stage (approximately 1 to 2 weeks), the larvae would pupate and emerge as either adult moths or wasps.

I found that parasitism increased the larval mortality rate greatly (93% of the lanced larvae died by the end of the experiment compared to only 27% of the control larvae). About 50% of the parasitized larvae died before pupation. Parasitism did not seem to affect growth or food consumption. The high mortality rate of parasitized diamondback larvae suggest that *D. insulare* is an effective biocontrol.

My plans for next year's science fair project are related to these two species. I am considering an experiment testing the percentage of diamondback larvae that are attacked by a *D. insulare* population.

T&L Needs a New Mailing Team Coordinator

T&L's mailing coordinator is unable to continue. I am sorry to see him go, but he has too many other commitments. However, he has offered to train anyone who is interested in taking on this position.

I have received two kind offers to join the mailing team, offers I definitely appreciate, and I hope to keep in mind when we find a new coordinator. Unfortunately, as of yet, I have not received an offer to replace the current coordinator.

The coordinator receives the publication from the printer, obtains the printed labels from the Membership Chair, organizes the "label party" (where the volunteers get together to affix the labels to the issue), completes the Canada Post forms and delivers the issues to the postal terminal. The entire process takes approximately four hours, and occurs four times a year. It is now organized such that everything is done from home, but if that is not feasible, I am sure other arrangements can be made.

Anyone who is interested please contact Karen at (613-838-4943) or at hamilton@storm.ca.

Ontario's Reptile and Amphibian Atlas

David Seburn

Ontario's reptiles and amphibians are becoming increasingly rare. In fact, three quarters (18 of 24) of Ontario's reptile species are listed as Species at Risk.

Reptiles and amphibians are collectively known as herpetofauna and are a unique part of Ontario's biodiversity. An earlier atlas, called the Ontario Herpetofaunal Summary Atlas, provided extensive information about where many of the province's reptiles and amphibians occurred. However, much of that information now needs to be updated. Furthermore, many populations of rare reptiles and amphibians are still being discovered. We need this information to monitor changes in the ranges of reptile and amphibian species and fluctuations in their population numbers. We also rely on this data to determine if a species is at risk and to identify and manage important habitat for rare reptiles and amphibians.

Ontario Nature has begun work on a new Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Atlas project in partnership with the Eastern Ontario Model Forest (EOMF), the Ministry of Natural Resources' Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC), and other government agencies and non-governmental organizations.

The objective of the atlas project is to improve our knowledge of the distribution and status of Ontario's reptiles and amphibians by collecting observations from the public, carrying out field surveys and amalgamating existing databases.

Anyone can help by submitting observations. It can be as simple as reporting a Painted Turtle basking in a marsh, or a Bullfrog calling near your cottage. Observations can be submitted via an online form, an Excel spreadsheet (useful for submitting multiple observations) or a printable data card that can be mailed in. For more details check out the atlas website:

http://www.ontarionature.org/protect/species/herpetofaunal_atlas.php.

The website has lots of great information including photos of all the amphibians and reptiles of Ontario as well as draft distribution maps.

Purple Loosestrife Good News for Butterflies Update

Linda Jeays

On July 6, 2010, I contacted a group of local butterfly enthusiasts requesting that members keep a sharp lookout for species nectaring on Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*). In a previous article for *T&L* (42:2), I documented 17 butterfly species that I had observed using the loosestrife as a nectar source. The mainly serendipitous sightings were along hydro easements and grassy tracks, at the edges of cultivated fields and railway embankments, in wet meadows and roadside ditches. Almost all the locations were between Bells Corners and North Gower.

The diversity of species using Purple Loosestrife in these widespread habitats indicated that far more butterflies than was generally thought used the plant for nectar. I hoped that my request would prompt a more targeted search by other independent observers. All reports were to be from the Ottawa area (within 50 km radius of the Peace Tower).

Response to the challenge was excellent. Eleven new species were reported during July and August 2010. Including four previous records from Peter Hall and one from Ross Layberry, the grand total of species now known to take nectar from Purple Loosestrife in our region is 33.

Two locations have proved especially worth searching both in 2010 and in other years. Purple Loosestrife in old wet fields at the end of Hôtel de Ville Road (near Luskville Falls) has hosted a variety of interesting butterflies including Silver-spotted Skipper, Columbine Duskywing, Northern Broken-Dash, Acadian Hairstreak, Atlantis Fritillary and American Lady. Loosestrife growing in the varied habitats along the Howie Road extension (near Manion Corners) produced sightings of Banded Hairstreak, Aphrodite Fritillary, Silver-bordered Fritillary, Meadow Fritillary and Baltimore Checkerspot.

In August 2010, I integrated reports from other observers with my own records and found that with the recent additions of two Pyrgine Skippers, two Hairstreaks and a Checkerspot, all sizeable Ottawa-area subfamilies were represented on the

loosestrife nectaring list.

Four subfamilies, each with only one Ottawa species, are not on the updated record: Intermediate Skippers (Heteropterinae), Harvesters, (Miletinae), Snouts (Libytheinae) and Emperors (Apaturinae). Each of the missing desirable butterfly species presents a different difficulty for the observer: in early July Arctic Skipper is at the end of its flight season, Harvester rarely if ever visits flowers, American Snout's Ottawa status is very rare and very local, Hackberry Emperor is rare and local.

While we should not disregard the potential threat posed by Purple Loosestrife to existing habitats, currently the ubiquitous plant is a valuable nectar source used by tiny Least Skipper and large Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, host-plant-hugging Columbine Duskywing and migrant Monarch, woodland dweller and marsh denizen. In fact, it seems likely that all Ottawa-area butterflies that nectar and fly in July and/or August use Purple Loosestrife as a nectar source in some circumstances.

It is hoped that this ongoing study will encourage more OFNC members to become interested in the nectaring behaviour of local butterfly species.

Species observed nectaring on Purple Loosestrife in the Ottawa area

HESPERIIDAE

Pyrgine Skippers (Subfamily: Pyrginae)

Silver-spotted Skipper (*Epargyreus clarus*) [PH]

Columbine Duskywing (*Erynnis lucilius*) [PH]

Branded Skippers (Subfamily: Hesperinae)

Least Skipper (*Ancyloxypha numitor*)

European Skipper (*Thymelicus lineola*)

Crossline Skipper (*Polites origines*) [ML]

Northern Broken-Dash (*Wallengrenia egeremet*) [CH]

Delaware Skipper (*Anatrytone logan*) [PH]

Broad-winged Skipper (*Poanes viator*) [PH]

Dun Skipper (*Euphyes vestris metacomet*)

PAPILIONIDAE

Swallow tails (Subfamily: Papilioninae)

Black Swallowtail (*Papilio polyxenes asterius*)

Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (*Papilio glaucus*) [RL]

PIERIDAE

Whites, Marbles, Orangetips (Subfamily: Pierinae)
Cabbage White (*Pieris rapae*)

Sulphurs (Subfamily: Coliadinae)
Clouded Sulphur (*Colias philodice*)
Orange Sulphur (*Colias eurytheme*)

LYCAENIDAE

Coppers (Subfamily: Lycaeninae)
Bronze Copper (*Lycaena hyllus*)

Hairstreaks (Subfamily: Theclinae)
Acadian Hairstreak (*Satyrium acadicum*) [CH]
Banded Hairstreak (*Satyrium calanus falacer*) [RL]

Blues (Subfamily: Polyommatainae)
Eastern Tailed Blue (*Cupido comyntas*)
Summer Azure (*Celastrina neglecta*)

NYMPHALIDAE

Fritillaries (Subfamily: Argynninae)
Great Spangled Fritillary (*Speyeria cybele*)
Aphrodite Fritillary (*Speyeria aphrodite winni*) [RC]
Atlantis Fritillary (*Speyeria atlantis*) [PH]
Silver-bordered Fritillary (*Boloria selene atrocostalis*) [RC]
Meadow Fritillary (*Boloria bellona*) [RC]

Checkerspots, Crescents (Subfamily: Melitaeinae)
Baltimore Checkerspot (*Euphydryas phaeton*) [RC]

Anglewings, Tortoiseshells, Thistle Butterflies, Peacocks (Subfamily: Nymphalinae)
Eastern Comma (*Polygonia comma*)
American Lady (*Vanessa virginiensis*) [CH]
Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*) [LJ]
Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta rubria*)

Admirals (Subfamily: Limenitidinae)
Viceroy (*Limenitis archippus*)

Satyrs, Wood-Nymphs (Subfamily: Satyrinae)
Common Ringlet (*Coenonympha tullia inornata*)
Common Wood-Nymph (*Cercyonis pegala nephele*)

Milkweed Butterflies (Subfamily: Danainae)
Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*)

Observers

RC Rick Cavašin	PH Peter Hall	CH Christine Hanrahan
LJ Linda Jeays	ML Maxim Larrivée	RL Ross Layberry

Those named above were the first reporters to the project of the species indicated. Species with no observer designation are from the author's own previously published list. Several other naturalists, including David Allison, Ken Allison, Diane Lepage and Jeremy Newman, provided corroborative sightings for species already reported.

Note

On August 6, 2010, Jeremy Newman and Isabelle Létourneau photographed American Snout (*Libytheana carinenta bachmanii*) nectaring on Purple Loosestrife at Salaberry-de-Valleyfield, near Montreal.

Omission

The ninth species observed by Linda Jeays in 2003, but omitted from the calendar section of the original article (*T&L* 42:2), was Common Wood-Nymph, recorded July 22 on Twin Elm Road.

References

Jeays, Linda. 2008. Purple Loosestrife Good News for Butterflies. *T&L* 42(2):54-57.
Layberry, Ross. 2007. Butterflies of the Ottawa District; 103 species . . . and counting. *T&L* 41(1):16-36.

A Bird in the Hand—The Gray Jays of Algonquin Park

*Gord Belyea and Ann MacKenzie*¹



They are cute, curious and convenient to see but what is the story behind these boreal birds who manage to survive in such a harsh environment? The Club members who ventured to Algonquin Park at the end of February for the Gray Jay trip found some answers and gained a whole new appreciation for these delightful birds.

¹ Loosely paraphrased from Dan Strickland's talk, February 26, 2011

We were fortunate to have Dan Strickland, the foremost authority on Gray Jays in Algonquin, come to our place in Dwight on the Saturday evening for a talk on his Gray Jay research. Dan is an honorary member of the OFNC and has been studying Gray Jays since 1967.

First we learned that the annual mortality rate of Gray Jays is only about 20%, considerably less than the 40-60% of most songbirds. As a result, jays often live to 12 years of age. One is even known to have reached the ripe old age of at least 16. Surprisingly, their mortality is lower in the winter than in the summer. Summer predators are more deadly than winter storms.

To what do they attribute their success?

Staying Put - A mated pair has a territory of about 140 hectares in Algonquin Park. In other parts of their range the territory size may be smaller or larger. They stay in this area unless there is the death of a partner or a divorce. As well as avoiding the perils and energy demands of migration, it also means that they know their area very well. The down side is their need to survive in the harsh conditions of boreal winters.

A well stocked pantry - Gray Jays are food hoarders. Offer them a morsel of food and they fly away to hide it in a tree—usually under bark using their saliva to provide a sticky glue to secure it to the tree. But not just any tree. Experiments have shown that food stored in the bark of conifers, particularly Black and White Spruce, maintains more of its nutrient value and rots less than food stored in other trees. It is no coincidence that the distribution of Gray Jays in North America corresponds closely to the distribution of Black and White Spruce. So all summer they are busy collecting fruit, insects, and mushrooms and socking them away for a cold January day.

Finders Keepers, Losers Weepers - From personal experience we all know that it is one thing to put things away and quite another to be able to find them when you need them. A study, using food that had been coloured, clearly showed that the Gray Jays were finding their stored caches. Not only were they finding them shortly after hiding them, but they were also retrieving them over a month later when they had to feed the nestlings. You can imagine the fun fecal work of that study!!

A snowy nest - At the end of February the jays were already busy building their nests. Nests are designed so that the female can use her body as a plug to keep the snow and cold out. She starts sitting on the nest when the first egg is laid but does not begin incubating until all of the 3-4 eggs have been laid. The male is responsible for keeping her fed. Incubation lasts 18½ days. The nestlings are ready to fledge after 23 days.

Negligent Parents? - Not only are the young brought into the world when the winter storms are still blowing but then the nestlings are fed only about once an hour. After the eggs hatch the female jay stays on the nest for the first 5-6 days after which she starts accompanying the male on more and more of his foraging trips. Compared to the frenetic activity of most songbirds around their nests, this seems quite peculiar. The biggest menace to the nest is the Red Squirrel. The less activity around the nest the less likelihood the squirrels will discover it. Therefore the food flights are kept to a minimum making the nestlings survive on fewer but bigger meals throughout the day.

Put the teenager to work - Most mated pairs have one offspring from the previous year stay with them and it is referred to as the Extra. This happens in June when the biggest bully of the fledglings (usually a male) drives away its brothers and sisters. The ones chased away look for a pair who did not have breeding success to 'adopt' them. If they are not successful, their chance of survival is lessened.

In the next breeding season, the Extra is not allowed to bring food to the nest, keeping nest-related activity to a minimum. However, once the nestlings have fledged then the Extra helps the parents bring food to the young. Additional activity is no longer a problem, probably because Red Squirrels pose no threat to fledglings the way they do to nestlings. The fledglings are good flyers as soon as they leave the nest so they can easily escape land predators.

Time remains to re-stock the pantry - Gray Jays are finished most of their parental duties about the time most birds are thinking about getting started. This timing allows them a long period to find and cache food for the next winter. Later nesting or having a second brood would mean less stored food on the territory. The Gray Jay strategy is to avoid the perils of migration and to live long enough to produce many more broods, albeit smaller ones, than if they tried to maximize their production of young each year.

How does Dan Strickland study Gray Jays?

- a. Find the nest - As the nest building time approaches, food is put out to attract the resident jays to a spot. Once Dan has the jays used to coming to this spot, he also offers them cotton balls which they then take to add to their nest. As the jays take this material they are followed back to where they are building the nest—easier said than done in mid-February in Algonquin.
- b. Band the birds - When the young are about 11 days old, Dan returns to the nest. Using a very tall ladder he approaches the nest and bands the young birds. If they are not banded at this stage then a variation of a squirrel live-

trap is used. Dan Strickland is one of the first in a canoe in Algonquin Park in the spring as he tries to reach the nests, sometimes with a ladder balanced over the gunwales.

The bands are designed so that they can be read at a distance. There is no



need to recapture the bird. Each bird receives a unique combination of two bands on each leg. That becomes the bird's identity for

life—and its name. How would you like to be called WOKLGOSR (white over pink left and green over standard right)? It is nicer to call her Mrs West Rose of the West Rose family grouping on the Mizzy Lake Trail. She is one of the tamest of all the jays, and that is saying something.

- c. Observe the birds - This is where the fun comes for bird watchers like us. Using a sheet listing the families of Gray Jays in the park you can tell if the one coming repeatedly to your hand belongs to the family in that area and if it is a male, female or Extra. For the researchers it enables them to track the movement of the birds, their mortality, family pairings, etc. They are no longer just a jay but rather a unique individual whose parentage and history are known.

What does the future hold?

Algonquin Park is one of the most southerly places with families of Gray Jays. Most are farther north in the Boreal Forest. Over the years the number of families in the park has declined considerably. They are most successful when there is a cool autumn, helping to preserve the food caches. Long term climate trends as well as year-to-year variations will determine their future.

What did we see on our field trip on Sunday, Feb. 27.

Armed with our new knowledge of the Gray Jays and with bags of suet pieces, nuts and even green grapes we headed out to the top of the Mizzy Lake trail. Fortunately

the snow was packed down and we could walk in our boots without need of snowshoes. We had lists of the Jays by their band names.

As soon as we parked the car there were five jays from two different families to greet us. As we proceeded along the trail we met other families of jays and a Black-backed Woodpecker. One Pine Marten decided that near the outhouses at the start of the Mizzy Lake Trail was a good place for a photo op. Later, at the Spruce Bog trail, we were treated to the Boreal Chickadees coming to the suet as well as jays. The Spruce Grouse did not show up but some of the participants had seen it coming into the park the day before.



Overall, watching the Gray Jays taking food from our hands was delightful. However, knowing which individual it was, from which family and understanding more about their lives, further enhanced the experience.

Errors and Corrections

K. McLachlan Hamilton

As much as I try to be as correct as possible, items fall through the cracks and errors are made. It was suggested that I propose that errors are purposely placed to test the readers. Unfortunately that is not the case, so two corrections to the previous issue should be noted:

I neglected to include that the article: "Birders, Photographers and Values" by Christina Lewis was originally written for, and published in, The Ontario Field-Ornithologists' newsletter *OFO NEWS*. It may be found in its original form in the October 2008 (Volume 26, Number 3) issue. My apologies to Christina, and the editors of *OFO NEWS*.

Another correction involves the photograph of the Purdon Conservation Area (on page 83). It has been brought to my attention that this photograph was taken by Geof Burbidge, not Ted Mosquin.

Fabulous Fall Fungi

Richard Aaron

Discover the wonderful world of mushrooms and other fungi in this three-day workshop. The workshop will have hands-on identification, plus discussions on ecology, uses and etymology. Classes are small (maximum 12) so there will be ample opportunity to learn from the experts.

This event will be held on Sept 28-30, 2011 at the Queen's University Biological Station (near Elgin, ON). The cost is \$250 which includes tuition, meals, accommodation, use of lab space and microscopes.

For more information see www.queensu.ca/qubs/index.html or contact Richard Aaron at natureteacher1@gmail.com.

Ottawa Area Orchid Website

Another interesting piece of information has been brought to my attention by fellow Club member Roy John.

The Ottawa Orchid Society has included many of the local wild orchids on their website. The species list was produced using Joyce and Alan Reddoch's article "The Orchids in the Ottawa District: Floristics, Phytogeography, Population Studies and Historical Review" published in the *Canadian Field-Naturalist* (Volume 111, Number 1). Many of the photographs were supplied by Henry Steger, OFNC Membership Chair. This site contains scientific and common names with flowering information, and where available, a series of photographs to help you with the identifications. I think this site is worth checking out.

The website may be found at: www.ottawaorchidsociety.com/ottawa_native.html.

OFNC Directory

Ann MacKenzie

Many clubs and organizations provide a directory of membership to their members. The OFNC has not done this in recent years. Council agreed that a directory might enable members to contact each other more easily, as well as find out which of your friends are, or are not, members. These days, everyone is concerned about privacy so only names and email addresses would be listed.

The directory would be distributed electronically to all members. If you would like your name included in such a directory please email Membership Chair, Henry Steger (hsteger@eisa.com), stating your name as you would like it shown and the email address if other than the one you replied from.

Coming Events

arranged by the Excursions & Lectures Committee.

For further information,
call the Club number (613-722-3050).

Times stated for excursions are departure times. Please arrive earlier; leaders start promptly. If you need a ride, don't hesitate to ask the leader. Restricted trips will be open to non-members only after the indicated deadlines.

ALL OUTINGS: *Please bring a lunch on full-day trips and dress according to the weather forecast and activity. Binoculars and/or spotting scopes are essential on all birding trips. Unless otherwise stated, transportation will be by car pool.*

REGISTERED BUS TRIPS: *Make your reservation for Club bus excursions by sending a cheque or money order (Payable to The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club) to Box 35069, Westgate P.O., Ottawa, Ontario, K1Z 1A2, at least ten days in advance. Include your name, address, telephone number and the name of the outing. Your cooperation is appreciated by the Committee so that we do not have to wait until the last moment to decide whether a trip should be cancelled due to low registration. In order for the Club to offer a bus trip, we need just over 33 people to register. If fewer than 30 register, we have the option of cancelling the trip or increasing the cost. Such decisions must be done a week in advance, so we encourage anyone who is interested in any bus trip to register as early as possible. We also wish to discourage postponing the actual payment of bus fees until the day of the event.*

EVENTS AT THE CANADIAN MUSEUM OF NATURE: *The Club is grateful to the Museum for their cooperation, and thanks the Museum for the use of these excellent facilities. Monthly meetings are held in the theatre in the basement. Attendees may have to pay \$5 parking per vehicle.*

BIRD STATUS LINE: *Phone 613-860-9000 to learn of recent sightings or birding potential in the Ottawa area. To report recent sightings use the 613-860-9000 number and stay on the line. This service is run on behalf of the Birds Committee and is available to members and non-members.*

Saturday
2 July
8:30 a.m.

THE 11TH ANNUAL OTTAWA AREA BUTTERFLY COUNT

Kid Friendly

Leaders: Jeff Skcvington and Peter Hall

(rain date:
Sunday
3 July)

Meet: in the parking lot at intersection of Dwyer Hill Road and March Road (NE of Almonte). [Call Jeff (613-832-1970) between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. on Friday if in doubt about the weather or for any specific questions.] If you need a ride from Ottawa please contact Fenja Brodo (613-723-2054) about car pooling.

The North American Butterfly Association has coordinated butterfly counts following the same format as the Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs). These counts are published as part of an ongoing program of NABA to census the butterflies of North America (see <http://www.naba.org/counts.html>). Volunteer participants' focus on a 24 km diameter circle and conduct a one-day census of all butterflies sighted within that circle. A \$4 donation from each participant is encouraged (children under 12 are free) and supports the publication. This is the 5th year the OFNC will sponsor a count which will be centred at Manion Corners (SW of Ottawa). It includes several important areas such as the Long Swamp and the Burnt Lands alvar. It is an all day event so bring your lunch. No experience is necessary! We will put teams together on site and match up people so that everyone has a chance to learn from the experts. If you have binoculars and a butterfly net, bring them along. Live butterflies may be captured and brought to the count compilation for identification and release.

We plan to meet at the Fletcher Wildlife Garden at 5:30 p.m. for a post compilation and pot luck dinner. Please bring some food to share plus your own drinks. We will have a collection of butterflies to help people figure out what they saw and learn a bit more about these amazing creatures. We hope everyone can make it to the compilation, as it will be a lot of fun; however, if you can't, we will get your data in the afternoon before you leave.

Sunday
10 July
10:00 a.m.

VISIT TO MER BLEUE PEATLAND CARBON STUDY

Leaders: Elyn Humphreys

Meet: Dewberry Trail Parking Lot (P23) off Dolman Ridge Rd. (Take Anderson Rd. to Dolman Ridge).

Researchers from four universities are engaged in studying the peatland carbon cycles in Mer Bleue bog. Dr. Elyn Humphreys will give us a tour of the facilities and we shall see the instrumentation and how it is being used. We will learn the reasons why this carbon cycle is being studied, some of the interesting results from these studies, and what it tells us about the history and the present state of this wonderful bog.

Sunday
17 July
9:00 a.m.
to
approx.
3:00 p.m.

(cancelled if
heavy rain or
thunder)

THE RIDEAU RIVER FROM A CANOEIST'S PERSPECTIVE

Kid Friendly

Leader: Gord Belyea

Meet: Ecolands Park. Take Riverside Road south to Hunt Club. Continue 1.5 km south of Hunt Club Road and turn right onto River Road. At 0.5 km further on the right is the turn-off to Ecolands Park (there is a sign there). Go down the lane to the parking lot where the group will be waiting.

This 5 to 6 hour, leisurely return trip, will take you along the Rideau River from the Black Rapids Locks, south to the Long Island Locks and return. Along the way we will enjoy the old and the new, from pastoral farmlands to modern subdivisions. Wildlife sightings are possible, such as ducks, geese, grebes and cormorants. Beavers and muskrats also ply these waters. Bring a lunch to enjoy while we rest at the Long Island locks. Parks Canada has the following excerpt on the Long Island Locks and we will have time (with the exception of a visit to Watson's Mill) to follow their suggestions: "*Long Island features a beautiful pastoral setting and a large stone arch dam. . . . It also has an interesting hand operated, centre pivot, steel through truss swing bridge. This is the location of the story of the "Sluiced Superintendent."* . . . Ask the lockmaster to tell you this story. In the nearby community of Manotick is Watson's Mill, a beautifully restored 19th century stone mill open to the public."

Sunday

17 July

9:00 a.m.

to

3:00 p.m.

**(cancelled if
heavy rain or
thunder)**

CONTINUED: THE RIDEAU RIVER

Please bring a full canoe safety kit and plenty of drinking water. Departure will be at 9:00 a.m. sharp. There are washroom facilities at Long Island Locks and Ecolands Park. If you would like to rent a canoe for the event, Trailhead is one of the outfitters in town that should be able to set you up with a boat and teach you how to secure it to your car.

Tuesday

19 July

9:30 a.m.

to

mid-afternoon

(rain or shine)

A RAMBLE IN THE FERGUSON FOREST, KEMPTVILLE

Leader: Eleanor Thomson (613-269-3523)

Meet: Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre, northeast corner of parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road near Pizza Pizza or call Eleanor if you wish to meet the group in Kemptville.

Our ramble will take us through a lovely rich deciduous forest and mixed woods around the Ferguson Forest Centre. The great diversity of native woodland plants and trees makes this area a delight to explore. We will take a look at everything (botanical and otherwise) that piques our curiosity, captures our interest, or delights our senses. Bring a lunch and a raincoat day if rainy. You may also want field glasses, hand lens, and camera.

Sunday

24 July

9 a.m.

to

1 p.m.

**(Cancelled if
weather is
inclement)**

BUTTERFLIES OF GATINEAU PARK

Kid Friendly (although be aware that there will be biting insects and Poison Ivy)

Leader: Rick Cavašin

Meet: Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre, northeast corner of parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road near Pizza Pizza. Alternatively, meet at the Champlain Lookout parking lot (the unpaved one furthest from the lookout), around 10 a.m.

When the milkweeds are in bloom, many species of butterflies are drawn to the feast. Whether you're trying to get great photographs, or simply hoping to get a closer look at some of the more elusive species, the humble milkweed can be a valuable ally. We'll be walking from the parking lot at the Champlain lookout west along the Ridge Road. Tips on identification of various species will be provided along the way.

Sunday
14 August
2:30 p.m.
to
7:30 p.m.

CONSTANCE LAKE BY CANOE

Kid Friendly

Leaders: Dan Brunton and Hume Douglas
(humedgl@gmail.com)

Meet: Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre, northeast corner of parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road near Pizza Pizza. Alternate meeting point (parking may be limited) is 3:00 to 3:15 at the public lake access at the end of Berry Rd. Come explore the largest lake that is contained within Ottawa. Its shorelines include bog, marsh, rock outcrops, and deciduous and coniferous forests, with the possibility of rare plants. In addition to the above-water vegetation we will look at some of the expected diverse pondweeds below the surface. Birds, fish, insects, and other life-forms will also be within the scope of this voyage of discovery. Bring your canoeing gear (including a full canoeing safety kit), and snacks and drinks. If you have extra canoe space, or will need one, please email Hume at humedgl@gmail.com. Extra parking is available across the bay at Constance Lake Rd. The lake is small enough that it should be easy to meet up on the water.

Sunday
14 August
7:30 a.m.
to
12 noon
(rain or shine)

SHOREBIRDS: TELLING THE MEN FROM THE BOYS, AND THE WOMEN FROM THE GIRLS

Leaders: Bernie Ladouceur and Mark Gawn

Meet: Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre, northeast corner of parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road near Pizza Pizza. After breeding, adult shorebirds head south almost right away, leaving the juveniles on their own to migrate a few weeks later. In Ottawa, mid-August is when the adult to juvenile change-over normally occurs, meaning this trip should be a good opportunity to compare adults and juveniles. Believe it or not, rather than complicating shorebird identification, knowing whether you are looking at an adult or juvenile actually makes the [enjoyable!] task of identifying shorebirds easier.

For those of you who live in the east end: if it turns out that the best areas for shorebirds are east of the city, we will use the OFNC website to inform you of our first stop and approximate arrival time.

Saturday
20 August
7:30 a.m.
to
12 noon

(rain or shine)

OTTAWA AREA BIRDING

Leader: Ken Allison (613-831-7585)

Meet: Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre, northeast corner of parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road near Pizza Pizza. The OFNC will try a new initiative this year. Throughout the peak birding season, we intend to offer birding trips on several Saturday mornings. We have a great slate of leaders (see below). Each leader will decide at the last minute where to take the group, depending on the bird action that particular week. The leader may even decide in the parking lot, depending on reports that come in from the participants! We encourage birders to mark these dates down on their calendars and come out for the bird walks.

Sunday
21 August
7:30 a.m.
to
12 noon

(rain or shine)

EARLY MIGRANTS AND LATE NESTERS: BIRDWATCHING AT HOG'S BACK/VINCENT MASSEY PARK

Leader: Paul Jones

Meet: Upper parking lot at Hog's Back/Vincent Massey Park. August is an active time for birds in Ottawa, with small flocks of northern migrants appearing in the city and many resident species and their young still around. To find them, we will explore the trails of Hog's Back/Vincent Massey at a relaxed pace, checking the park's woodland and riverside habitats. The walk will begin, rain or shine, at the park's upper parking lot on Hog's Back Road (between Riverside and Prince of Wales) just east of the bridge over the Rideau River. Bring binoculars, water and a snack.

Saturday
27 August
7:00 a.m.
to
5:00 p.m.

BIRDING AT PRESQU'ILE PROVINCIAL PARK

Leader: Roy John (613-748-9963)

Meet: Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre, northeast corner of parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road near Pizza Pizza. We will take a trip to Presqu'ile Provincial Park to look for ducks, shorebirds and confusing warblers as they begin their southward migration. We will also check for unusual fall flowers and Monarchs. Please bring a lunch and be prepared for the forecasted weather.

Saturday
10 September
7:30 a.m.
to
12 noon
rain or shine

OTTAWA AREA BIRDING
Leaders: Langis Sirois (613-526-5361, lsir@sympatico.ca) and Hervé Tremblay (613-233-5696 ext. 507, hertre@yahoo.ca)
Meet: Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre, northeast corner of parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road near Pizza Pizza.
 See page 140 for description of the event.

Sunday
11 September
9:30 a.m.
to
1 p.m.
(Cancelled if rain)

STROMATOLITES AND OTTAWA GROUP LIMESTONES
Leader: Paul Gammon (613-730-7725)
Meet: 9:30 a.m. at Samuel de Champlain parking lot, Gatineau. Head north on Pont Champlain Bridge to the Quebec side of the Ottawa River. Turn west onto Boulevard du Lucerne at the first set of lights. Proceed 150 m along Boulevard du Lucerne and turn south (left) into Samuel de Champlain parking lot. The parking lot entrance is relatively small and not easily visible from the road, so if you reach the Rue Champêtre exit on the north side, you have gone too far. Come explore the 450 million-year-old Ottawa Group limestones, deposited in the Ottawa Embayment during the Ordovician Period. This was possibly the most interesting period of the earth's history, when our current marine ecosystems evolved. Prior to this, the Cambrian "explosion" of multi-cellular life was a set of random evolutionary experiments, many of which were evolutionary dead ends. The two field sites will show fossil groups and arrangements that demonstrate this Ordovician revolution. Our first stop is reminiscent of the earlier simple ecosystems, as we visit Ottawa's famous stromatolites, accretions formed in shallow waters by micro-organisms (usually blue-green algae). Our second stop demonstrates the ways in which fossil diversity increased during the later Ordovician period. Bring a lunch, a drink, and a hand lens if you have one.

Monday
12 September
7:00 a.m.
to
Friday
16 September

POINT PELEE BIRDS AND MONARCHS
Leader: Jeff Skevington. Email: jhskevington@gmail.com; phone: 613-832-1970
Meet: Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre, northeast corner of parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road near Pizza Pizza. Car pooling will be prearranged so registration directly with Jeff is essential.

Monday
12 September
7:00 a.m.
to
Friday
16 September

CONTINUED: PEELEE BIRDS AND MONARCHS

We have timed this trip to hopefully coincide with the peak of Monarch butterfly migration, if the weather cooperates. If not, the birding will be good. We will be just past the peak of shorebirds and warblers and at the beginning of the sparrow migration. It's quite a different experience if you have not tried it before.

There are two options for accommodation: 1. Camping (we have reserved the north campground in Pelee for up to 20). This cannot be confirmed until payment is made. Please reserve with Jeff by July 18 if you wish to camp. Cost is \$13.70 per night per person and includes park entry; 2. Motel. You must find your own accommodation, but this should be easy in autumn. We will set a meeting spot and time 2 to 3 times per day so you can easily join the group at various times and locations. You will also need to purchase a park pass. Some people may wish to stay beyond Sept. 16. That should work fine and we can try to accommodate this when setting up car pooling. Note: if we stay beyond the 16th, campers must move elsewhere (Wheatley Provincial Park for example) as the maximum number of nights in Pelee is four.

It is highly recommended that you join a discussion group for this event if you are interested in coming (to arrange car pooling, or a different meeting point, or ask questions, etc.). To do so, send an e-mail to: *OFNC_Outings-subscribe@yahoogroups.ca*. This is a private discussion group that is used to coordinate outings like this. Once you have subscribed, you can send messages to *OFNC_Outings@yahoogroups.ca*.

Tuesday
13 September
7:00 p.m.
Social & Club
business

7:30 p.m.
Formal
program

OFNC MONTHLY MEETING **MEMBERS' PHOTOGRAPHY NIGHT**

Location: Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets.

Many of us take pictures on Club outings or on our own, and this is our opportunity to share some special natural history shots with fellow members. The mix of different topics and different voices makes for an enjoyable evening. Contributions may be up to 15 images and may include anything related to natural history. If you wish to present your photos, please arrive by 7 p.m. so that we may organize the evening's presentations.

Saturday
17 September
7:30 a.m.
to
12 noon

OTTAWA AREA BIRDING
Leader: Peter Hall (613-421-6824)
Meet: Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre, northeast corner of parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road near Pizza Pizza.
 See description on page 140.

(rain or shine)

Saturday
17 September
9:30 a.m.

MUSHROOMING IN PAPINEAUVILLE QUÉBEC
Leaders: Michel and Christiane Corbeil
Meet: Secondary School of Papineauville (From Gatineau, at the western entrance of the village, turn left on Montfortains Street, just after the Police Station. Park at the first parking lot on your left. Allow 1 ½ hours from Lincoln Fields.)
 OFNC members are invited to join Les Mycologues Amateurs d'Outaouais for a mushroom trip in an area known to be rich in mushrooms. Some of the specimens harvested on Saturday will be on display at the Mushroom Fair on Sunday 18 Sept. (see below). Bring a lunch, tools for collecting and carrying mushrooms, field guides, hand lens etc.

Sunday
18 September
10 a.m.
to
5 p.m.

MUSHROOM FAIR
Location: Pavillion of the Lac Beauchamp Recreation Centre, 741 boul. Maloney est, secteur Gatineau.
 Join Les Mycologues Amateurs d'Outaouais at their annual Mushroom Fair and learn more about our local mushrooms. Specimens collected on the previous day's excursion will be exhibited at this fair.

Sunday
18 September
1:45 p.m.
to
5:00 p.m.

NATURE WALK ON THE MACNAMARA TRAIL, ARNPRIOR *Kid Friendly*
Leader: Michael Runtz
Meet: Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre, northeast corner of parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road near Pizza Pizza. Alternate meeting point is at 3 p.m. at the entrance to the trail.
 Directions: <http://www.mfnc.ca/macnamaratrail.html>.
 This nature walk will be a joint event with the Macnamara Field Naturalists Club, lead by MFNC president Michael Runtz, on their own Macnamara trail near Arnprior. Along this interpretive trail and boardwalk we can expect to see resident and fall migrant birds along with many unusual plants in high-quality forest and wetland habitats.

Saturday
24 September
7:30 a.m.
to
12 noon

OTTAWA AREA BIRDING

Leader: Dave Moore (613-729-9330)

Meet: Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre, northeast corner of parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road near Pizza Pizza. See description on page 140.

(rain or shine)

Saturday
1 October
9 a.m.
to
12 noon

SLIME MOULDS, PUFFBALLS AND CUP FUNGI

Leader: George White (613-623-0498, gwhite@lincsat.com)

Location: Spicer Property, Carbine Rd., Pakenham

Meet: Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre, northeast corner of parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road near Pizza Pizza. Travel to the 5-Span Bridge Parking lot in Pakenham for 9:45 a.m. and from there we'll travel in convoy to the property. The field trip will last till noon but feel free to bring a lunch and stay around to take photos or explore some more. This is a joint trip with the Macnamara Field Naturalists.

In October, some of the smaller or less conspicuous "fungi" are fruiting abundantly and, with just a little training, become quite easy to locate, particularly at this picturesque Highland woodlot. Most of these organisms are mid-sized to small but can be very colourful and often very intricate. Unfortunately they are typically overlooked in North America, so one of the main purposes of the foray is to develop an awareness for these important forest biodegraders among our local naturalists.

Slime moulds like *Lycogala*, *Trichia*, *Hemitrichia* and *Stemonitis* should be abundant and provide a new perspective for many on our local biodiversity. We should also encounter a wide range of puffballs including earthstars, bird nest fungi, *Lycoperdon*, *Scleroderma* and *Bovista*. The Cup Fungi, or Discomycetes, share the same habitat but exhibit a completely different means of spore production and dispersal. Other macrofungi will be noted. Sturdy footwear is recommended. Bring a hand lens if you have one, as well as your camera macro lens and tripods. Children are welcome if accompanied by an adult, but no dogs please.

Saturday
1 October
7:30 a.m.
to
12 noon

OTTAWA AREA BIRDING
Leader: John Cartwright (613-789-6714)
Meet: Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre, northeast corner of parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road near Pizza Pizza.
 See description on page 140.

(rain or shine)

Sunday
2 October
10 a.m.
to
2 p.m.

AUTUMN TREE IDENTIFICATION
Leaders: Carolyn Callaghan and Holly Bickerton
Meet: Gatineau Park Visitor Information Centre Parking Lot, Old Chelsea
 Come and explore Gatineau Park in early autumn. This walk will focus on tree identification, and we can also observe other native flora along the way. Wear sturdy shoes, bring your favourite field guide(s), binoculars, lunch, and a drink.

Tuesday
October 11
7:00 p.m.
Social & Club
business

OFNC MONTHLY MEETING
WINTER SURVIVAL STRATEGIES
Speaker: Ken Storey
Location: Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets

7:30 p.m.
Formal
program

Details to follow in the next issue of *Trail & Landscape*.

DEADLINE: *Material intended for the October - December issue must be in the editor's hands by 1 August, 2011. Send your manuscripts to:*

Karen McLachlan Hamilton
2980 Moodie Drive, Nepean, ON, K2J 4S7
H: (613) 838-4943; email: hamilton@storm.ca

ANY ARTICLES FOR TRAIL & LANDSCAPE?

Have you been on an interesting field trip or made some unusual observations?
 Write up your thoughts and send them to Trail & Landscape.

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www.ofnc.ca

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webmaster@ofnc.ca

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